

evergreen [2]



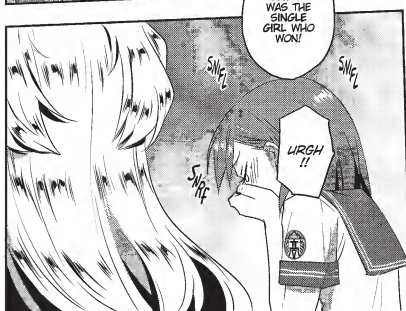
story
YUYUKO TAKEMIYA

art
AKIRA CASKABE



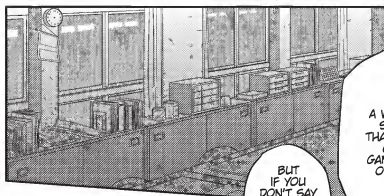
evergreen











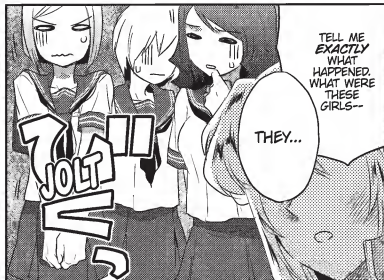
A WITNESS STATES THAT THESE GIRLS GANGED UP ON YOU.

ANAYA-SAN!

BUT IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING, YOU'LL BE BLAMED AS THE INSTIGATOR!



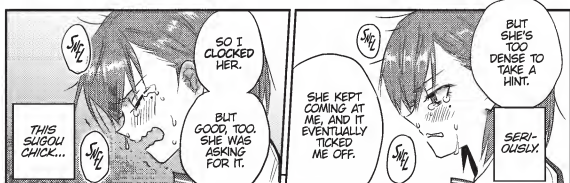
AFTER ALL, SUGOU-SAN IS THE ONE WHO LOOKS BEATEN UP.

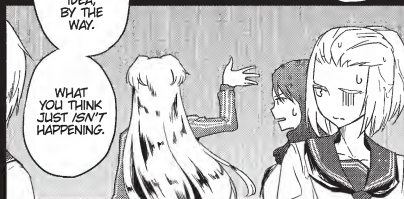
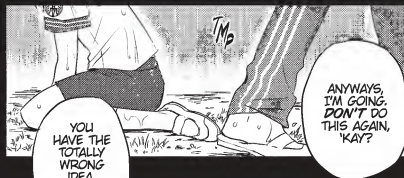


TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. WHAT WERE THESE GIRLS--

THEY...







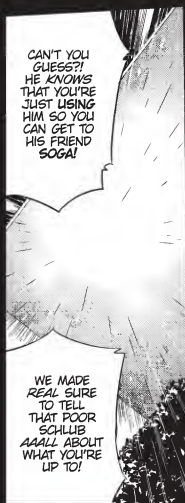


YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO
HIT ME
WITH ALL
YOUR
STRENGTH!!

D'YOU
THINK WE'RE
BLIND,
BITCH?!
QUIT PLAYING
LIL MISS
INNOCENT!

AND NO,
WE'RE NOT
"EVEN!"
THAT, LIKE,
SERIOUSLY
HURT,
Y'KNOW!!

!!



CAN'T YOU
GUESS?!
HE KNOWS
THAT YOU'RE
JUST USING
HIM SO YOU
CAN GET TO
HIS FRIEND
SOGA!

WE MADE
REAL SURE
TO TELL
THAT POOR
SCHLUB
AAALL ABOUT
WHAT YOU'RE
UP TO!



WHAT
...?

HOTAKA
KNOWS
WHAT
NOW...?



MIKI,
ENOUGH!

WHY?! IT'S
OBVIOUS
SHE'S AFTER
SOGA!
EVERYBODY
KNOWS!



EVEN
YOSHI-
MATSU!

FREEZE

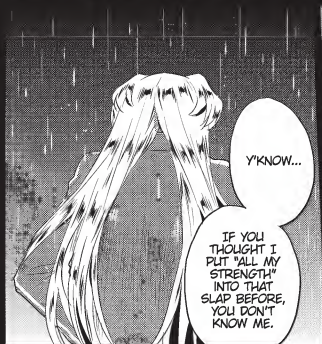
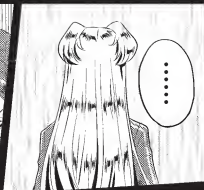
NOBODY'S
STUPID
ENOUGH TO
FALL FOR
YOUR OVERLY
BLATANT PLAN
OF WORMING
YOUR WAY
CLOSER TO
HIM!





DON'T
YOU
DARE
IGNORE
ME!!

BITCH
!!



Y'KNOW...

IF YOU
THOUGHT I
PUT "ALL MY
STRENGTH"
INTO THAT
SLAP BEFORE,
YOU DON'T
KNOW ME.





I'M AN
ATHLETE.
I CAN PULL
OVER
400 LBS.
ON THE
DYNAMOMETER.

AND...

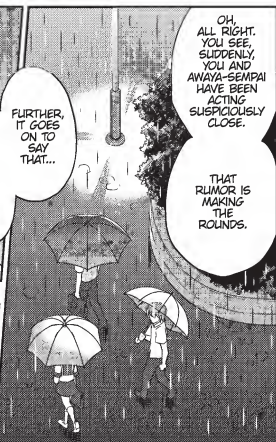
I'M NOT
THE TYPE
WHO'LL
JUST STAND
QUIETLY
AND TAKE
WHATEVER
GETS
DISHED OUT.

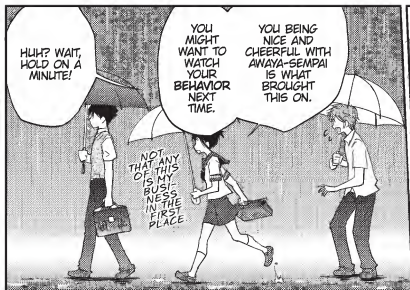




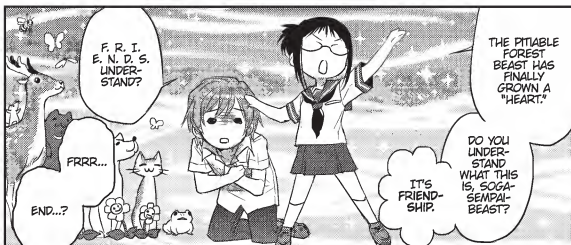
SMACK











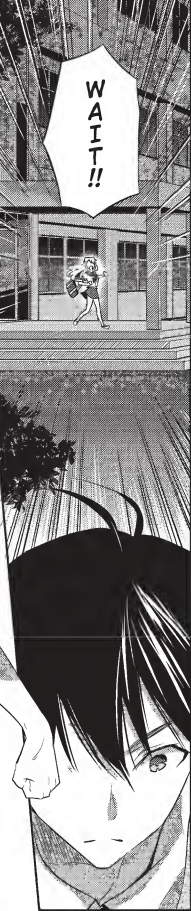


WAIT!!



I NEED
TO TALK
TO YOU!

PLEASE
WAIT!!





AWAY-
SEMPAI
?!

WHAT
ON
EARTH
?!

YIKES!



...
!!



WHAP

I'M
JUST A
TOOL.

DAMMIT,
NO!
DON'T
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA
AGAIN.

HER
SPARKLE,
HER VOICE...
THOSE ARE
DIRECTED AT
SOMEBODY
OTHER
THAN ME.

IT'S
NOT
ME...

THAT
SHE
WANTS
TO TALK
TO.







ANY-
WAY!!





HOLY
CRAP,
SHE'S
FAST!

I'M NOT
CATCHING
UP AT
ALL!



CAN'T...
BREATHE
...

A
SEDENTARY
MANGA CRITIC
TRYING TO
CHASE DOWN
AN ATHLETIC
VARSITY
SWIMMER IS
PROBABLY
NOT THE
BRIGHTEST
IDEA.



BUT
STILL...

I CAN'T
GIVE UP
AFTER
THAT.

SHE
SAID
SHE
WASN'T
USING
ME.

I DON'T
WANT
TO STOP
THE
CHASE.

I NEED
TO ASK
HER
WHAT
SHE
MEANT.

THAT SHE
ACTUALLY
IS INTER-
ESTED
IN ME.

IT MAKES
ME
REALLY,
REALLY
WANT TO
HOPE...

AS IN
JUMPING
UP AND
DOWN AND
RUNNING
IN GIDDY
LITTLE
CIRCLES,
AMAZING.

IF SHE
WAS...

IT'D BE
AMAZING.

THAT HER
JUST BEING
INTERESTED
IN ME WOULD
BRING ME
THAT MUCH
JOY.

I NEED
TO LET
HER
KNOW....

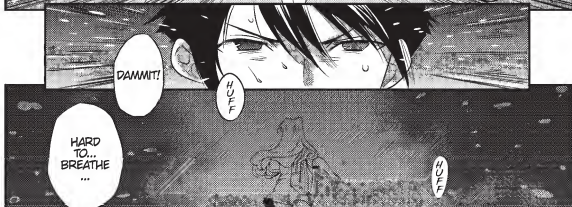
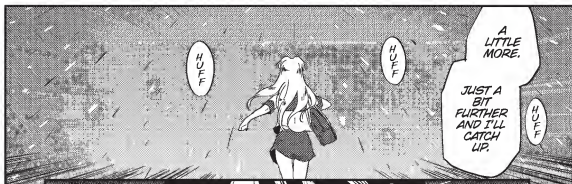
HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

TO DO THAT,
I NEED TO
KEEP
RUNNING!





NIKI!!



WAH
--!!

SLIP
X!!



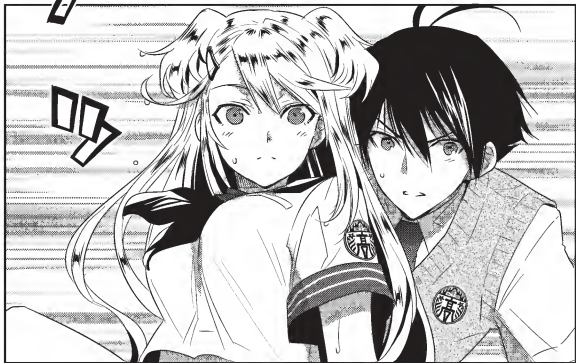
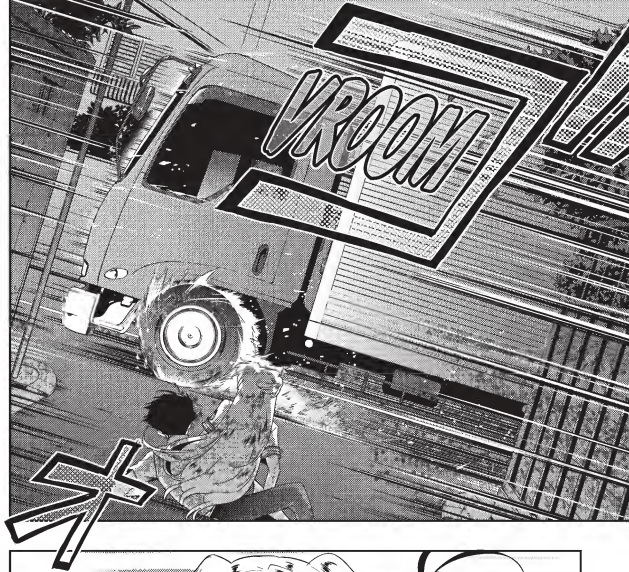
THUD

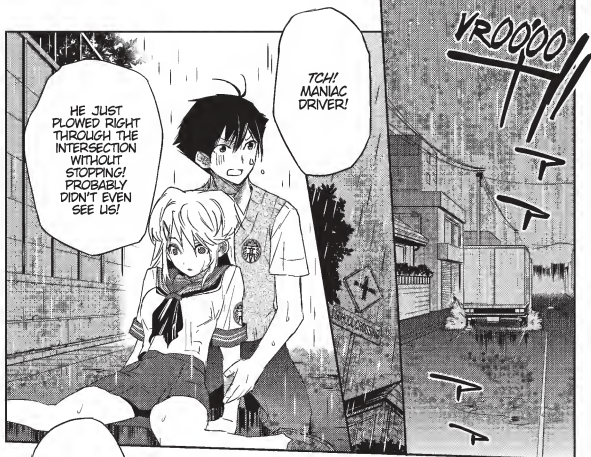
SHE'S
IN
TROUBLE
!!



I...
I
THINK...













UM...

I'D
WATCH
YOU AT
THE
POOL.

OH,
UH...

YOU'VE
PROBABLY
NOTICED
THIS
ALREADY,
BUT...

HONEST.

I'M NOT
TRYING
TO USE
YOU.

I'M KINDA
JADED ABOUT
A LOT OF
THINGS, SO
I COULDN'T
JUST BE
HAPPY
ABOUT IT.

INSTEAD,
I'D
WONDERED
IF YOU
WERE JUST
MESSING
WITH ME.

REMEMBER
WHEN YOU
RESCUED
ME AT THE
POOL THE
OTHER DAY?

TO BE
FRANK....

HEH
HEH!

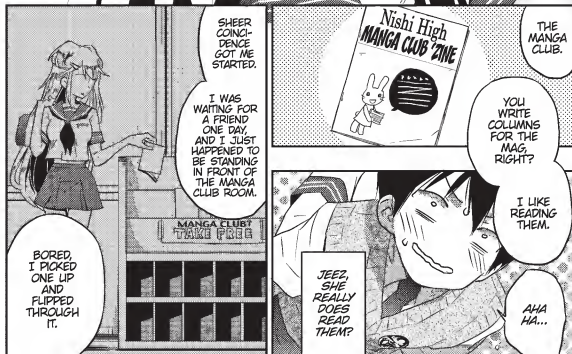
A PART
OF ME IS
WONDERING...
WHY ME?!



I,
LIM...

I WAS
WATCHING
YOU, TOO.

I KNEW
ABOUT YOU
EVEN FROM
BEFORE
WE MET.



SHEER
COINCIDENCE
GOT ME
STARTED.

I WAS
WAITING FOR
A FRIEND
ONE DAY,
AND I JUST
HAPPENED TO
BE STANDING
IN FRONT OF
THE MANGA
CLUB ROOM.

BORED,
I PICKED
ONE UP
AND
FLIPPED
THROUGH
IT.

MANGA CLUB
TAKE FREE



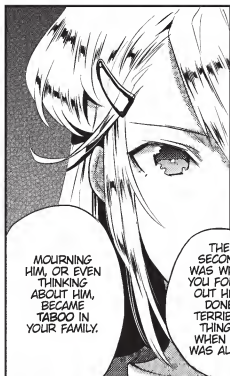
THE
MANGA
CLUB.

YOU
WRITE
COLUMNS
FOR THE
MAG,
RIGHT?

I LIKE
READING
THEM.

JEEZ,
SHE
REALLY
DOES
READ
THEM?

AHA
HA...



MOURNING HIM, OR EVEN THINKING ABOUT HIM, BECAME TABOO IN YOUR FAMILY.

THE SECOND WAS WHEN YOU FOUND OUT HE'D DONE TERRIBLE THINGS WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.

THE FIRST TIME WAS WHEN HE DIED OF ILLNESS.



THE ARTICLE I FOUND...

WAS THE ONE WHERE YOU WROTE ABOUT HOW YOU LOST YOUR FATHER TWICE.



SO, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE STILL LITTLE, YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO CRY FOR YOUR LOST FATHER.

NOBODY WOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT FELT LIKE.

...turmoil...
...and a you...
...in a heart...

...how I lo...
...not o...

...kids, who've never...
...understanding wh...
...ld be very, very hard...

BUT...

I COULD RELATE.



AT LEAST ...

THAT'S WHAT YOU WROTE.



HE JUST...
WALKED
OUT
ONE DAY.
HE AND
I WERE
HOME
ALONE AT
THE TIME,
BUT HE
JUST LEFT.

THE FIRST
TIME WAS
WHEN HE
ABAND-
ONED
ME AND
MY MOM.



HUH?



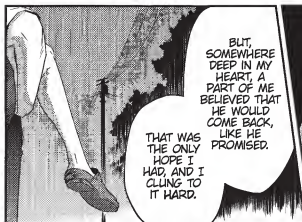
SEE,
I'VE LOST
MY DAD
TWICE,
TOO.



BUT THEN
HE LEFT,
AND HE
NEVER
CAME
BACK.

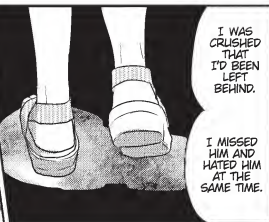
HE SAID
THAT HE'D
ALWAYS BE
WATCHING
OVER ME.

HE
PROMISED
HE'D COME
BACK.
HE SWORE
HE WOULD
COME SEE
ME AGAIN.



THAT WAS
THE ONLY
HOPE I
HAD, AND I
CLUNG TO
IT HARD.

BUT,
SOMEWHERE
DEEP IN MY
HEART, A
PART OF ME
BELIEVED THAT
HE WOULD
COME BACK,
LIKE HE
PROMISED.



I WAS
CRUSHED
THAT
I'D BEEN
LEFT
BEHIND.

I MISSED
HIM AND
HATED HIM
AT THE
SAME TIME.



HE
PROMISED
ME.

HE CAN'T
JUST
BREAK
THAT
PROMISE.

IT'S
NOT
FAIR.



I STILL
CAN'T
REALLY
BELIEVE
THAT HE'S
GONE.



I DON'T
WANT TO
THINK THAT
I'LL NEVER
SEE HIM
EVER AGAIN.

IT'S
JUST
NOT
FAIR.



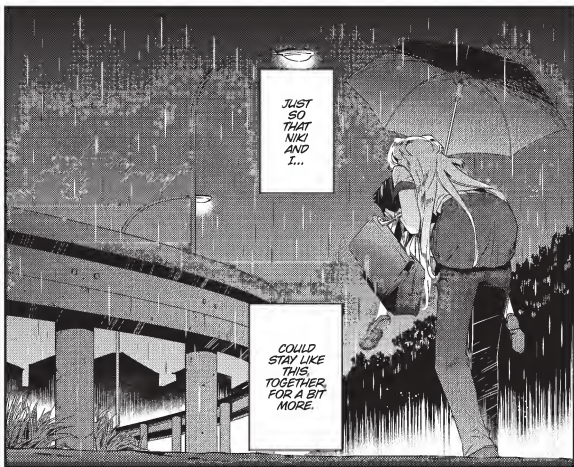
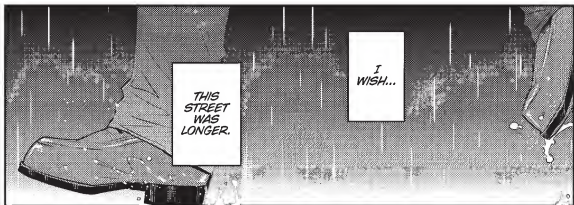
SEVERAL
YEARS
LATER...

I
FOUND
OUT
HE'D
DIED.

ONLY
MOM WENT
TO THE
FUNERAL.
I STAYED
BEHIND.
I...











I SEARCHED
THE LONG
ROAD, AND
FOUND THE
PERSON I
WAS MEANT
TO FIND.

I FOUND
YOU,
HOTAKA.

FSSSSSS



AWAYA
NIKI.

THAT'S
ALL.



IS IT
SAFE
TO
THINK

THAT
MAYBE

JUST
MAYBE,
I'VE
TOUCHED
HER
HEART?

Chapter 7: SPACE INVADERS





AWAYA
NIKI.

IS IT
SAFE
TO THINK...

THAT
MAYBE,
JUST
MAYBE,
I'VE
TOUCHED
HER
HEART?



I FOUND
YOU,
HOTAKA.



I SEARCHED
THE LONG
ROAD, AND
FOUND THE
PERSON I
WAS MEANT
TO FIND.

THAT'S
ALL.





ACTUALLY ...

MY MOTHER IS VERY SICK, TOO.



BUT IT DIDN'T PAY ENOUGH. I'VE HAD TO RESORT TO WORKING... NIGHT JOBS.

I GOT A PART-TIME JOB AND TRIED TO RAISE THE MONEY...

SHE NEEDS SURGERY.



YOU DON'T WANT ME TO HAVE TO DO THAT ANYMORE, DO YOU?

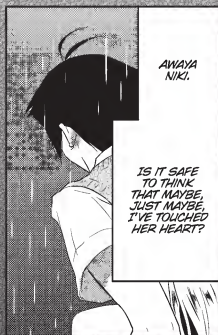
ISN'T IT TERRIBLE?

IT'S REALLY GROSS AND I REALLY, REALLY HATE DOING IT.

EVERY NIGHT, I HAVE TO LET LEWD OLD MEN TOUCH ME ALL OVER.







AWAYA
NIKI.

IS IT SAFE
TO THINK
THAT MAYBE,
JUST MAYBE,
I'VE TOUCHED
HER HEART?

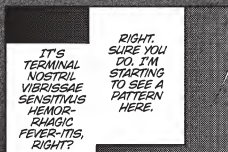


I FOUND
YOU,
HOTAKA.

I SEARCHED
THE LONG
ROAD, AND
FOUND THE
PERSON I
WAS MEANT
TO FIND.

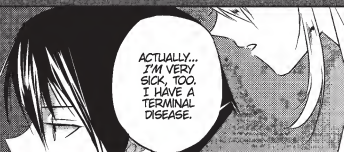
THAT'S
ALL.

SPLSH
+



IT'S
TERMINAL
NOSTRIL
VIBRISSAE
SENSITIVUS
HEMOR-
RHAGIC
FEVER-ITIS,
RIGHT?

RIGHT.
SURE YOU
DO. I'M
STARTING
TO SEE A
PATTERN
HERE.



ACTUALLY...
I'M VERY
SICK, TOO.
I HAVE A
TERMINAL
DISEASE.



NO ONE
ELSE COULD
HAVE ONE
THAT'S A MORE
PERFECT
MATCH TO MINE.

CLUTCH

I'M SO
GLAD I
MANAGED
TO FIND
YOU.



NO.

THAT'S
NOT IT.

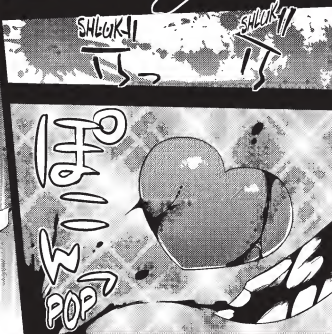


YOU SEE,
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT...



NO,
SOME-
THING I
DESPER-
ATELY
NEED.









THAT'S
MY
HEART.
I ONLY
HAVE
ONE.

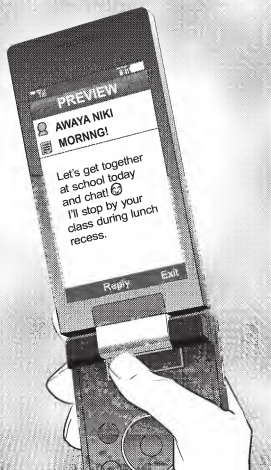
IF YOU
HAVE TO
STEAL IT,
AT LEAST
TAKE
CARE
OF IT.



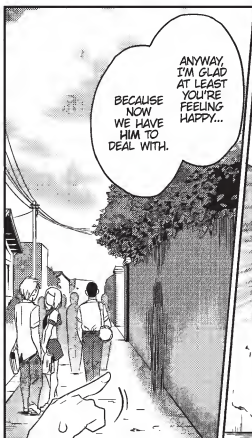
PLEASE
...

TREAT
IT
WELL.

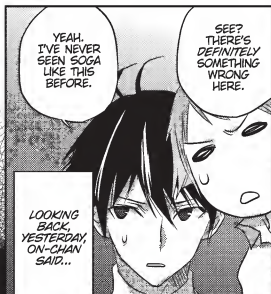


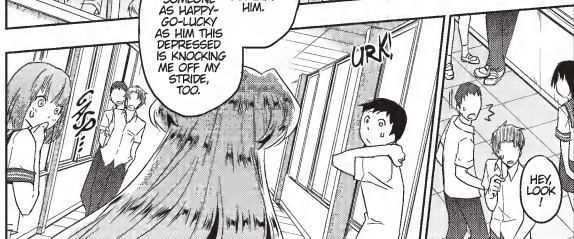


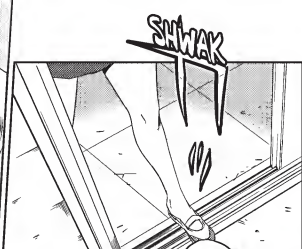












GOOOOONE!!

LOOKIE!
I'M ON
CRUTCHES!

WHAT
THE
HECK
?!



NAH,
IT'S NOT AS
BAD AS
IT LOOKS,
JUST A LIGHT
SPRAIN.

NO
WAY.

BUT THE
DOC SAID
BETTER
SAFE THAN
SORRY, SO
I'LL BE ON
CRUTCHES
FOR A
WEEK.

OH MY
GOSH,
WHAT
HAPPEN-
END?!

DID YOU
REALLY
TWIST IT
THAT BAD
YESTER-
DAY?!

YEP.

THIS IS
HOW
IT ALL
TURNED
OUT.

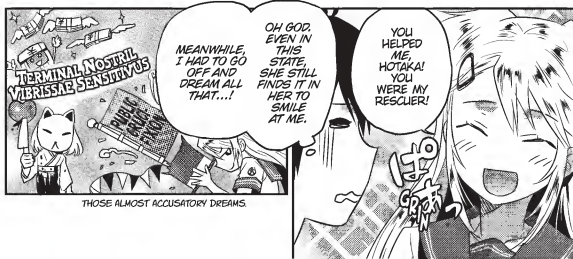


WHA?!
NO!

IT'S NOT
YOUR
FAULT!
I WAS THE
ONE WHO
WENT
RUNNING
OFF!

MAN,
I'M
SORRY!

IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT
THAT
HAP-
PENED.
OH GOD.



MEANWHILE,
I HAD TO GO
OFF AND
DREAM ALL
THAT...!

OH GOD,
EVEN IN
THIS
STATE,
SHE STILL
FINDS IT IN
HER TO
SMILE
AT ME.

YOU
HELPED
ME,
HOTAKA!
YOU
WERE MY
RESCUER!

TERMINAL NOSTRIL
VIBRISSE SENSITIVUS
PUBLIC PERIOD
PAIN

THOSE ALMOST ACCUSATORY DREAMS.





EASY, MIKU. DON'T DO IT. SHE'LL JUST MAKE YOU CRY AGAIN.

THAT CRUTCH IS TOTALLY NOT A HANDICAP. IN HER HANDS IT'S, LIKE, A WEAPON!



WH-WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT, EH?!

W-WANNA FIGHT?! I-I-I'M READY TO GO!!

SWSH
SWSH



HEY, SUGOU!

DOES THIS STILL HURT?

HM?



OPEN YOUR EYES AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS!!

ANY-WAY!!

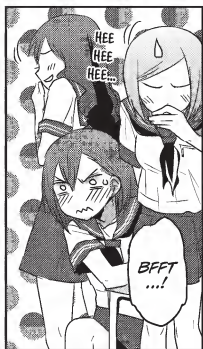


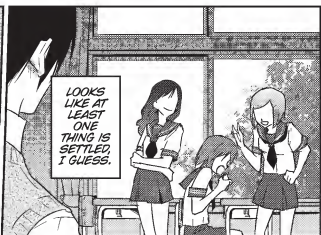
AH, OKAY. THEN I WON'T APOLOGIZE.

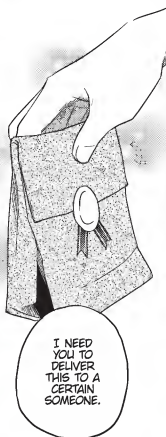
I WAS WORRIED I MIGHT'VE BEEN TOO HARSH ON YOU.

HELL NO, IT DOESN'T HURT!!











THEY
USED TO
HAVE IT
AGES
AGO...

HOST?
TOAST?
NO,
POST.

THAT
WHATCHA-
CALLIT
THING?



BUT, LIM,
I DON'T
WANNA
LET ON
THAT I
BROUGHT
IT.

SO,
FISH?
I WANT,
LIM...
YOU
KNOW.



LIM...
ANIMAL
STUFF...

PET...
PET...

POST
PETTING...?



AND DELIVER
THIS COOKIE
AND A BIG
SMILE TO THE
FIRST YEAR
STUDENT
HITACHI ON.

ON-CHAN?
THAT
ON-CHAN?!

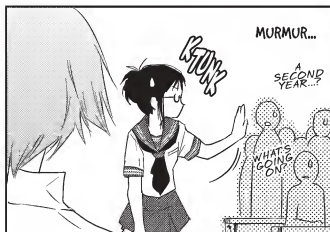
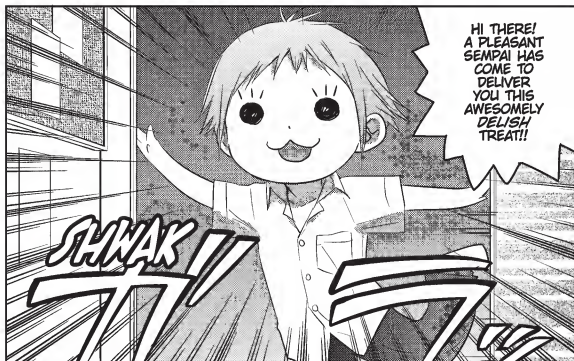


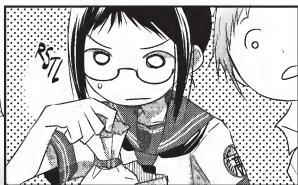
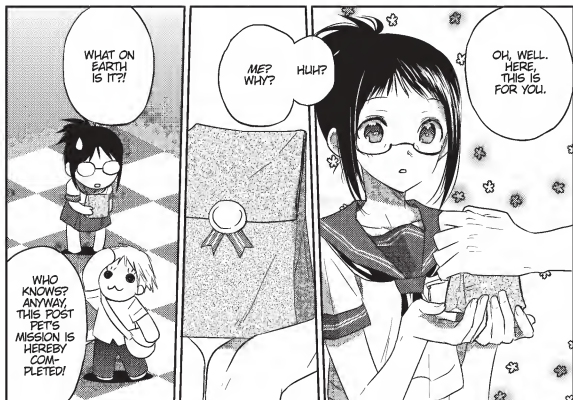
YOU
MEAN
"POST
PETS"?

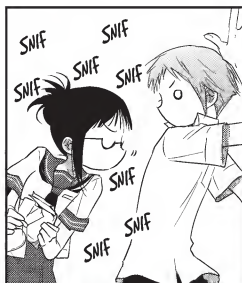
YEAH.
THAT
THING.

I WANT
YOU TO
PRETEND
YOU'RE
ONE OF
THOSE
THINGS.

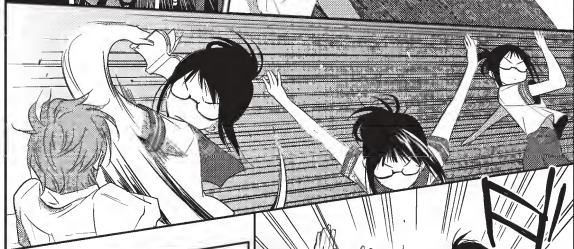










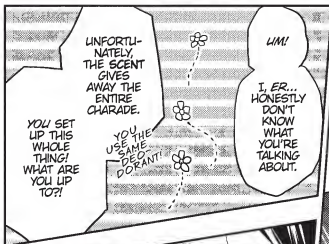




HUH?
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

ABSO-
LUTELY
CLUELESS
AM I.

AND WHY
ARE YOU
MAKING IT SO
PAINFULLY
OBVIOUS
THAT YOU'RE
LYING, SOGA?



UNFORTU-
NATELY,
THE SCENT
GIVES
AWAY THE
ENTIRE
CHARADE.

YOU SET
UP THIS
WHOLE
THING!
WHAT ARE
YOU LIP
TO?!

YOU THE
SAME
DEO-
DORANT!

UHM!

I, ER...
HONESTLY
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.



HERE!
TAKE THIS
BACK AND
DON'T EVER
TEASE ME
LIKE THIS
AGAIN!

IT
MAKES
NOT ONE
BIT OF
SENSE
TO ME
AT ALL!



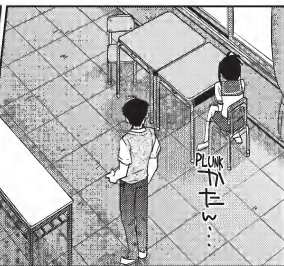
I WOULD
APPRECIATE
IT IF YOU
WOULD
STOP DOING
UNFATHOM-
ABLE
THINGS
LIKE THIS!

I FEEL
SORRY FOR
POOR SAKAI-
SEMPAI,
WASTING
CALORIES
PUTTING UP
WITH YOUR
INCOMPRE-
HENSIBLE
SHENANIGANS!













I...!!

WH-WHAT
I'M S-
SUPPOSED
TO DO!

WH...



WHAT
HAPPENED?
TELL ME,
I'LL
LISTEN.

WHAT'S
WRONG?
PLEASE
DON'T
CRY.



I-I
KNOW...
THAT I'M
B-BEING
UNREA-
SONABLY
STUBBORN.

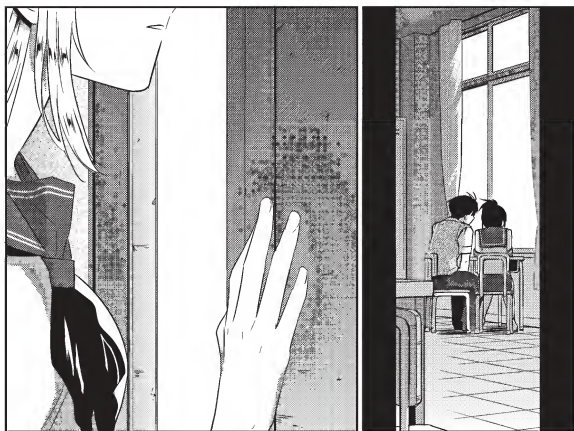
B-
BUT...

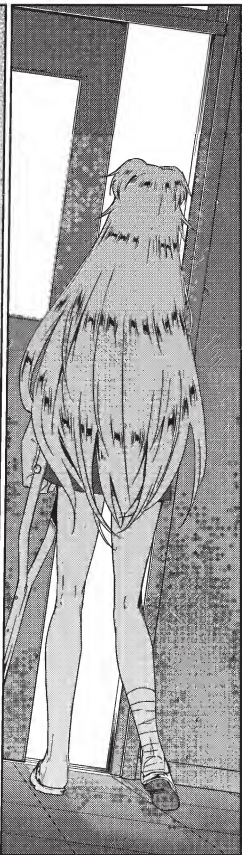
I...
I
REALIZE
IT.



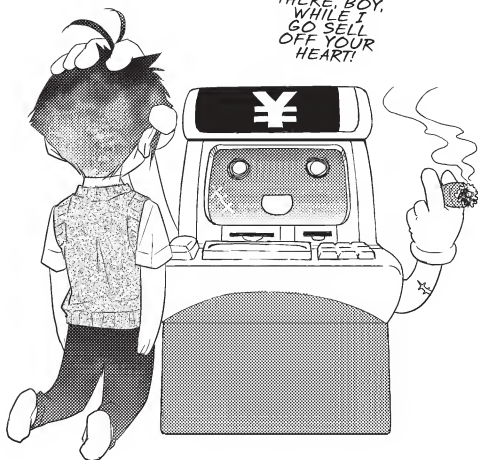
I
D-DON'T
KNOW...

I...
I
CAN'T...
I
CAN'T
H-H-
HELP
IT.



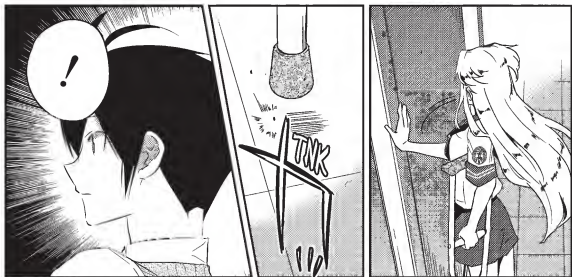


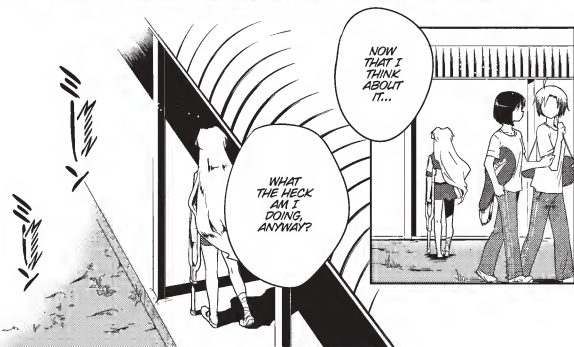
RIGHT,
HOLD IT
RIGHT
THERE, BOY,
WHILE I
GO SELL
OFF YOUR
HEART!

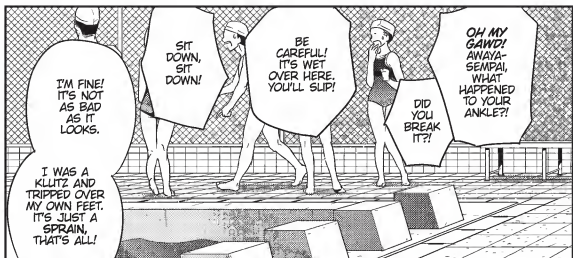




Chapter 8: Let It Slide for Now







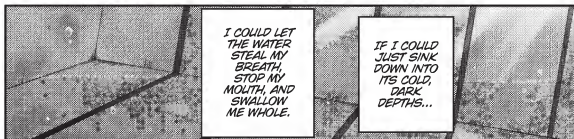


THEY'RE
SO
LUCKY.



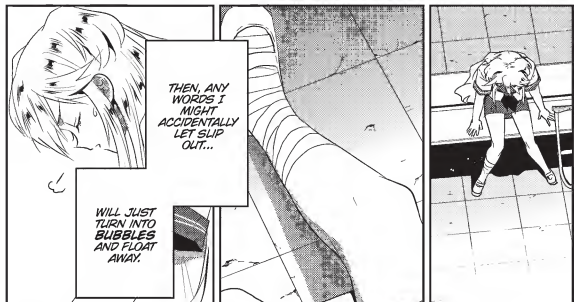
MUST FEEL
REALLY
GOOD TO
BE IN THE
WATER
TODAY.

THEY
GET TO
SWIM.



I COULD LET
THE WATER
STEAL MY
BREATH,
STOP MY
MOUTH, AND
SWALLOW
ME WHOLE.

IF I COULD
JUST SINK
DOWN INTO
ITS COLD,
DARK
DEPTHS...



THEN, ANY
WORDS I
MIGHT
ACCIDENTALLY
LET SLIP
OUT...

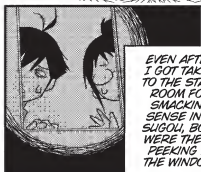
WILL JUST
TURN INTO
BUBBLES
AND FLOAT
AWAY.



THEY'RE
ALWAYS
TOGETHER,
LIKE TWO
BOTTLES
IN A PACK.



SERIOUSLY,
WHAT
IS THAT
GIRL TO
HOTAKA?



EVEN AFTER
I GOT TAKEN
TO THE STAFF
ROOM FOR
SMACKING
SENSE INTO
SUGOI, BOTH
WERE THERE
PEEKING IN
THE WINDOW.

AND WHEN
HOTAKA LENT
ME HIS
UMBRELLA
THAT DAY,
HE LEANED
ON HER TO
GET BY
WITHOUT IT.



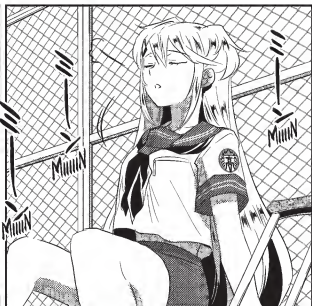
WHENEVER I
PEER INTO
THEIR ROOM
FROM THE
POOLSIDE,
THEY'RE
ALWAYS
CHATTING
HAPPILY
TOGETHER.



THEN
THERE
WAS THAT,
JUST A
MINUTE
AGO.



THEY'VE
GOTTA
BE
PRETTY
CLOSE.



IT HAS
TO BE
HOTAKA.

HE'S THE
ONE WHO
CAN REALLY
SEE ME FOR
WHO I AM,
WHO CAN
UNDER-
STAND ME.

I
MEAN...

I THOUGHT
HOTAKA
FELT THE
SAME
ABOUT
ME, TOO.



I EVEN
TOLD HIM
ABOUT
MY DAD.



I
THOUGHT
I WAS
GETTING
CLOSER
TO
HOTAKA,
TOO.

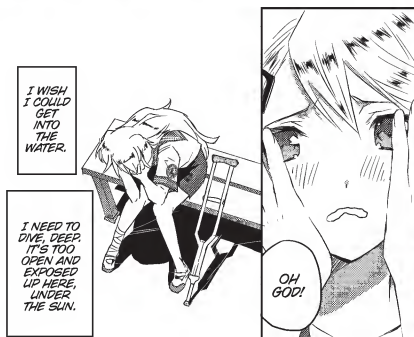
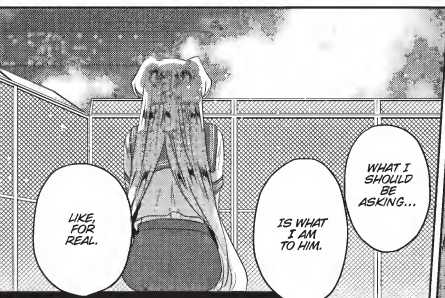
I MEAN,
LOOK AT
WHAT
WE'VE
BEEN
THROUGH
TOGETHER.

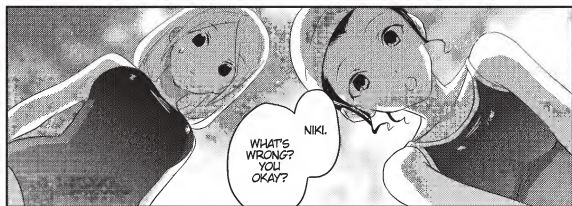


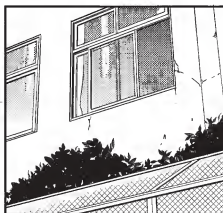
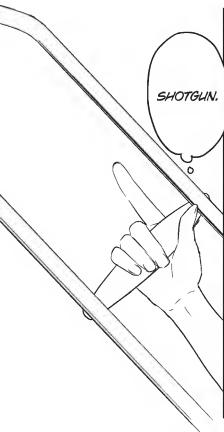
AFTER
SEEING
THOSE
FACES...

ANYBODY
WOULD
THINK SO.







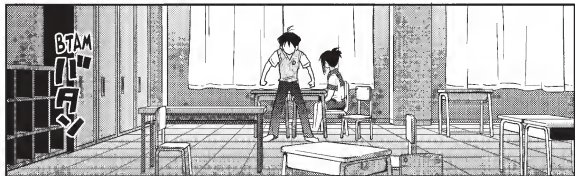








LISTEN UP, PEOPLE!









I'LL
LOCK UP
TODAY,
CAPTAIN.

I'LL DO
ALL THE
CLEAN-UP,
TOO.
YOU CAN
GO ON
HOME.

BUT...



SHAKE
SHAKE



REALLY?

NO,
THAT'S
OKAY.
THANK
YOU.

ARE
YOU
SURE?



DO,
WH...

DO YOU
WANT ME
TO TELL
SOGA
ANYTHING
FOR YOU?

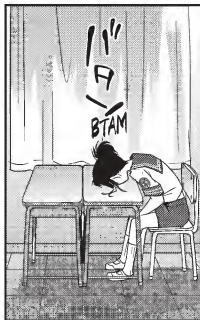


FINALS.

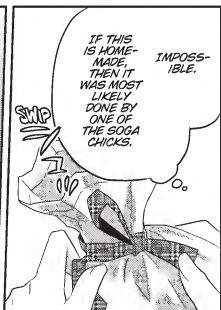


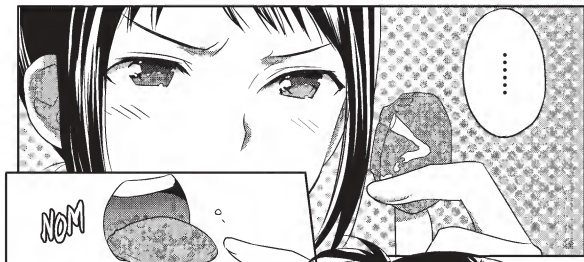
OH.
RIGHT.

VACATION'S
COMING,
WHICH
MEANS CLUB
ACTIVITIES
WILL GO ON
BREAK,
TOO.













JUST...
TO
SMILE.

SMILE.
THAT WAS
ALL
SEMPAI
WAS
TRYING TO
TELL ME.



AND I
COULDN'T
ACCEPT
EVEN THAT
ONE TINY
THING,
THROWING
IT BACK IN
HIS FACE.

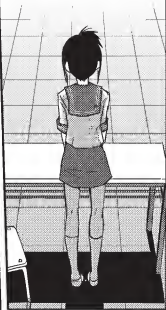
WHY?

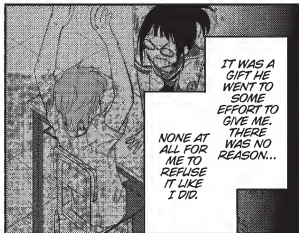
THAT WAS IT.
THERE IS
NO DEEPER
MEANING
BEHIND THE
COOKIE.

HE WAS
JUST
TRYING
TO SAY
ONE
LITTLE
THING.

YES, HE IS
UNCONDITION-
ALLY NICE TO
ALL GIRLS, FOR
NO REASON
OTHER THAN
THEY ARE
GIRLS. HE IS
A WOMANIZER,
AFTER ALL.

BUT...





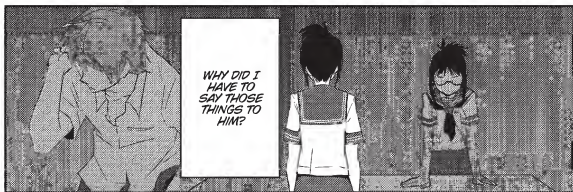
IT WAS A GIFT HE
WENT TO
SOME
EFFORT TO
GIVE ME.
THERE
WAS NO
REASON...

NONE AT
ALL FOR
ME TO
REFUSE
IT LIKE
I DID.

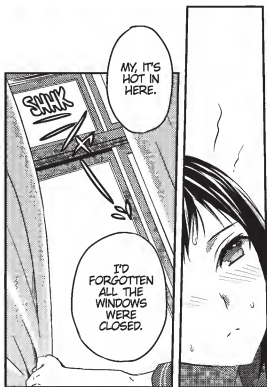


SAID "THANK
YOU," ATE IT,
AND SMILED
FOR HIM.

I SHOULD
HAVE
ACCEPTED
THE
COOKIE.



WHY DID I
HAVE TO
SAY THOSE
THINGS TO
HIM?



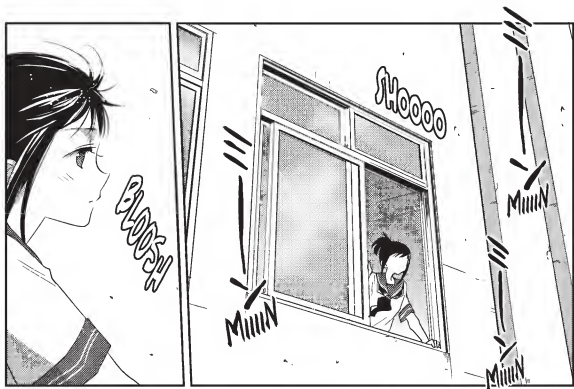
MY, IT'S
HOT IN
HERE.

I'D
FORGOTTEN
ALL THE
WINDOWS
WERE
CLOSED.



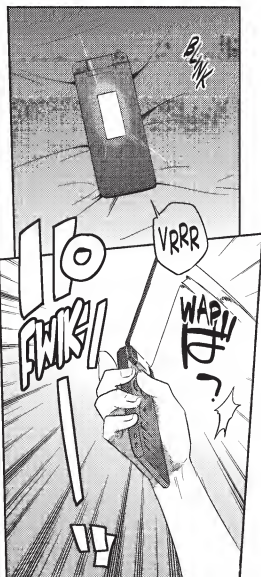
WHY...

DO I
HAVE TO
BE LIKE
THIS?





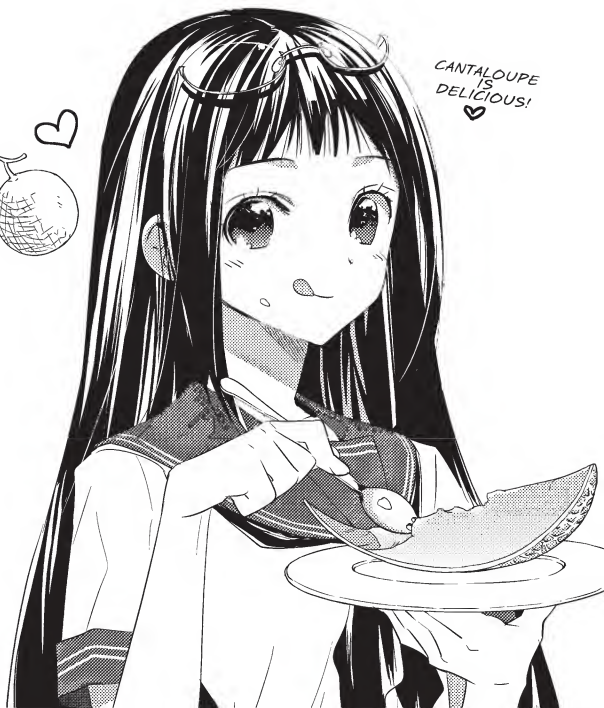






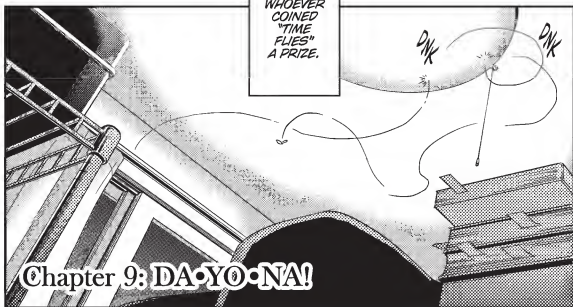


CANTALOUPE
IS
DELICIOUS!
♡





GIVE
WHOEVER
COINED
"TIME
FLIES"
A PRIZE.



FINALS
FOR THIS
SEMESTER
ARE NEXT
WEEK
ALREADY.

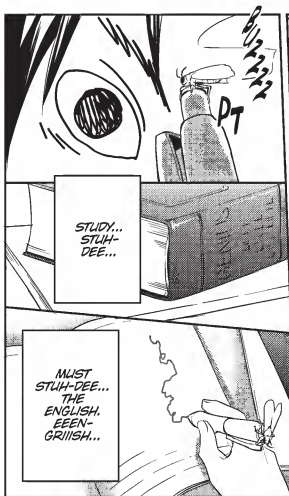
NEXT
WEEK.



YOU
KNOW...

EVERY-
ONE
DOES
THAT,
RIGHT?

WHEN
THERE'S
A TEST
COMING...



STUDY...
STUH-
DEE...

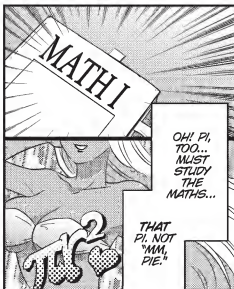
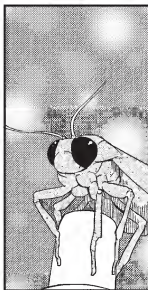
MUST
STUH-DEE...
THE
ENGLISH.
EEEN-
GRIISH...



STUDY.

RIGHT?

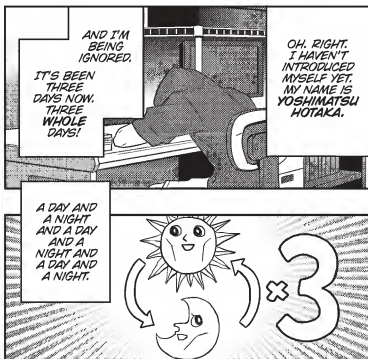
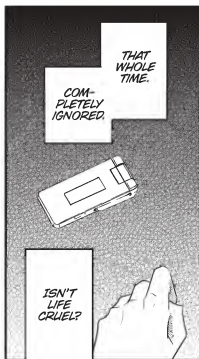
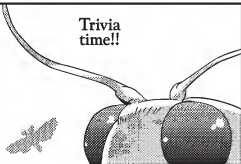
BAS
BAAAAAN



Let your grades slip even a little and you will immediately be sent off to make-up classes! Second-year students have it worse, as their grades tie directly into which class they are assigned to their final year—which in turn, affects the level of college they are trained to aim for! Accordingly, Hotaka should be studying his butt off right now, but—

The school Hotaka and his friends attend is a college prep school! Students focus on improving their grades in order to earn recommendations to better colleges. That means everyone takes tests seriously!

Trivia time!!





SMILING
AND HAPPY,
DESPITE
HER ANKLE
BEING ALL
BANDAGED
UP.

IT WAS
ONLY A
FEW DAYS
AGO THAT
SHE CAME
TO SEE
ME...



IGNORED
BY WHOM,
YOU ASK?

BY THE
BRIGHT,
SHINING,
NOSE-
BLEEDING
SUN,
THAT'S
WHO.

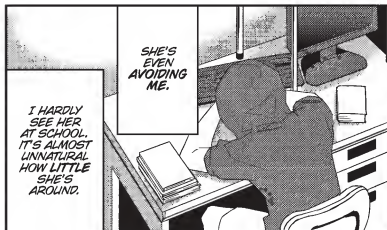


SHE ISN'T
REPLYING
TO ANY I
SEND TO
HER.
EITHER.

ALL OF A
SUDDEN,
SHE JUST
STOPPED
TEXTING
ME.



WHY IS
THIS HAP-
PENING?



SHE'S
EVEN
AVOIDING
ME.

I HARDLY
SEE HER
AT SCHOOL.
IT'S ALMOST
UNNATURAL
HOW LITTLE
SHE'S
AROUND.

THE DAY
AFTER
ON-CHAN
HAD HER
BREAKDOWN.

SHE
STARTED
IGNORING
ME...



SO...

I GUESS
I COULD
SEND A
TEXT TO
HER.

I MEAN,
WE ARE
FRIENDS.

NO GOOD
MORNING
TEXT
TODAY,
EH?

HNH.
WELL,
WE ARE
JUST
FRIENDS.

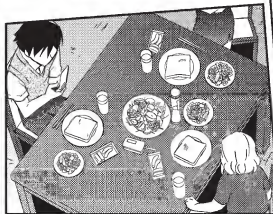
4 3 2 1
CHRP

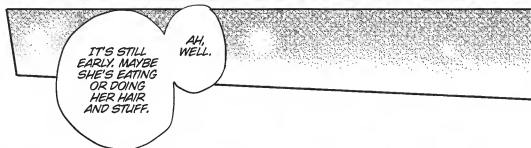
4 3 2 1
CHRP



SUB: Mornin'!

G'morning!
Mind if I come visit
your class during
lunch today?







AND BY "WE" I MEAN "ME," BECAUSE I WANT TO TALK TO HER.

OH, HEY! THERE SHE IS. LET'S GO SAY HELLO TO OUR ADORABLE UNDER-CLASSMAN.

AH, ON-CHAN.



SPEAKING OF SOGA, WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH THAT GUY? HE GETS REALLY WEIRD WHEN IT COMES TO HER.



UNTIL YESTERDAY, ANYWAY, WHEN HE SNAPPED AT HER.

SOGA IS NICE TO ALL GIRLS, AND THAT INCLUDES ON-CHAN.

SERIOUSLY, IT IS.

GOOD QUESTION.

WHAT'S A GUY SUPPOSED TO DO?

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS TO HER, ANYWAY?







*Ikariya Chosuke was a Japanese actor and musician, best known as the leader of the slapstick comedy group, The Drifters.





ACCORDINGLY,
CAPTAIN!
IF YOU DO
NOT SEE ME
OFTEN THESE
NEXT FEW
DAYS...

IT HAS
NOTHING AT
ALL TO DO
WITH WHAT
HAPPENED
YESTERDAY.
GOT IT?



DON'T
WORRY,
CAPTAIN.
IT WILL
SUBSIDE,
GIVEN A
FEW DAYS.



HOWEVER,
I WILL AGREE
THAT THEY
ARE NOT THE
PRETTIEST
THINGS, SO I
WILL KEEP
THEM HIDDEN.

WIBBLE

POINT!!
9/11



YES,
MA'AM!

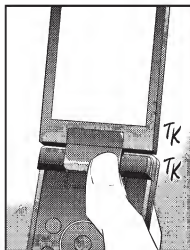
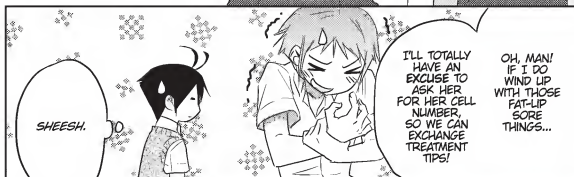
WIBBLE

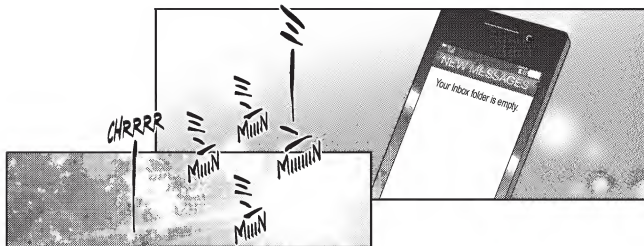


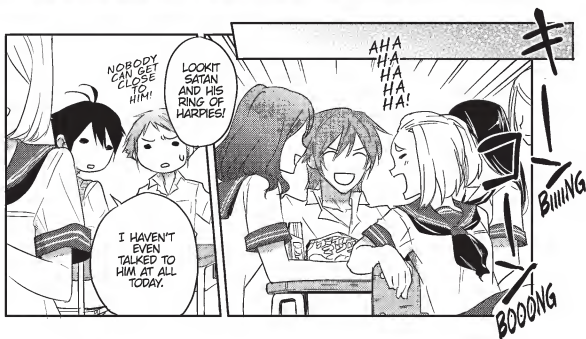
THAT I
WOULD
RATHER NOT
BE IN THE
COMPANY
OF CERTAIN
PEOPLE...

IS ONLY
BECAUSE
I PREFER
NOT TO PUT
THESE FAT
FRANKS ON
DISPLAY.

UNDER-
STOOD?









HIS
EXPRESSION IS
TOO PERFECT.

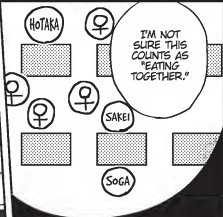
IT'S ALMOST
LIKE A WALL
SAYING,
"BACK OFF,
DON'T
BRING UP
YESTERDAY."



AND HE
WAS,
"SURE,
MAN!"
THAT'S
IT.

COURSE
IT WAS
ONLY
"SOGA,
LUNCH
TOGETHER?"

REALLY?
I MANAGED
ONE
SENTENCE
EARLIER.



HOTAKA

♀

I'M NOT
SURE THIS
COUNTS AS
"EATING
TOGETHER."

♀

♀

SAKEI

SOGA



SMEK!!



BESIDES.

I'VE
GOT MY
OWN--

HOTAKA?

ANY-
WAY...

IF THAT'S
WHAT HE
WANTS,
I'M NOT
GOING TO
PUSH.



NEW MESSAGES

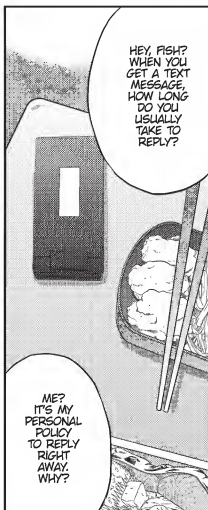
Inbox folder is empty

HN?

FWK

TK

TK





WELL,
UH...

WE ARE
FRIENDS
NOW,
YEAH.



OW!

QUIT
BLUSHING
LIKE A
SCHOOL
GIRL,
MAN!



OH-HO!
NOW I
GET IT!

IT'S AWAYA
NIKI,
RIGHT?!
YOU'VE
BEEN
BUDDY-
BUDDY
WITH HER
LATELY!



YEAH!
SOMETIMES
TEXTS GET
HUNG UP AND
DON'T ACTUALLY
MAKE IT TO
YOU UNTIL
HOURS LATER,
Y'KNOW?

OR MAYBE
SHE'S JUST
FORGOTTEN
HER CELL
AT HOME.

O-OH.



JEEZ,
MAN!
CAN YOU
GET ANY
MORE
TIMID?

IF YOU'VE
GOT THE
TIME TO
ASK IF YOU
CAN GO
SEE HER,
JUST GO
SEE HER!



HUH?
TH-
THAT'S
OKAY?



MAAAN!!

YOU!
FRIENDS!

S-SO,
UH...

I SENT
HER A TEXT
ASKING IF I
COULD COME
TALK TO HER
OVER RECESS,
BUT SHE
HASN'T SENT
ANYTHING
BACK.

WITH
THE
AWAYA
NIKI!!



IF I WANT TO TALK, I CAN GO UP TO HER AND TALK. THAT'S A TOTALLY NATURAL THING FOR FRIENDS TO DO.

IF I WANT TO SEE HER, I CAN GO SEE HER.

WE'RE FRIENDS. I DON'T NEED TO BE SO DEFERENTIAL.

HE'S RIGHT.

2-F



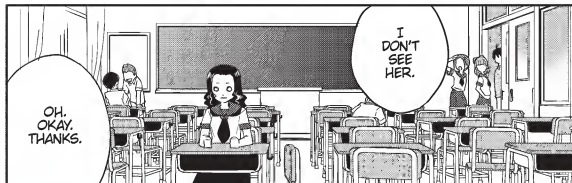
LIM,
EXCUSE ME?
IS AWAYA-SAN
AROUND?

HMP
NIKI-CHAN?



OH.
OKAY.
THANKS.

I
DON'T
SEE
HER.



.....

WEIRD.

WASN'T
SHE
HERE A
MINUTE
AGO?



AH
WELL..

BUT
THERE'S
NOT MUCH
I CAN DO
ABOUT IT
IF SHE'S
NOT
AROUND.

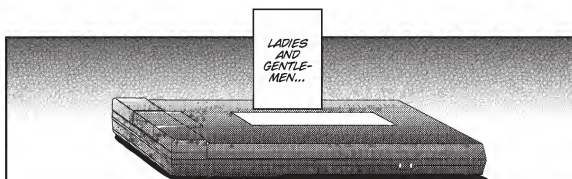
WELL,
THAT JUST
KILLED MY
MOMEN-
TUM.







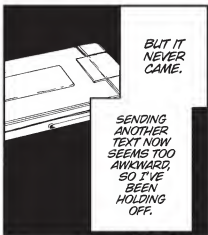






IT'S LIKE
WE'VE
REVERTED
BACK TO
THE TIME
BEFORE
WE MET.

NOT ONLY
ARE
WE NOT
TALKING,
I HAVEN'T
SEEN HER
SINCE.



BUT IT
NEVER
CAME.

SENDING
ANOTHER
TEXT NOW
SEEMS TOO
AWKWARD,
SO I'VE
BEEN
HOLDING
OFF.



THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I'M
BEING.

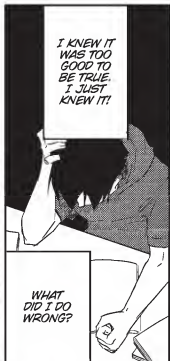
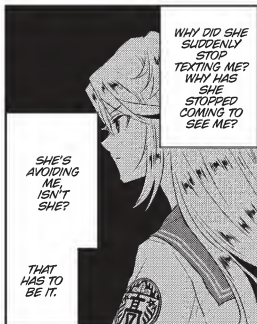
STUPID.

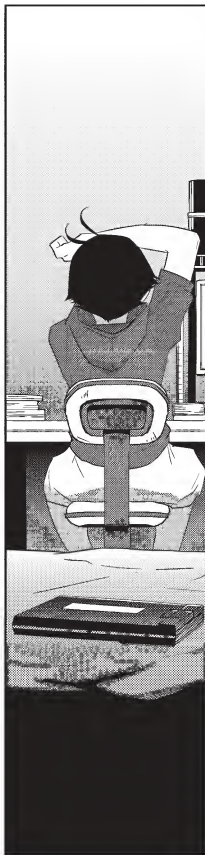
IT'S
STUPID.

YES,
THAT'S
EXACTLY
IT.



I HAVE
TO CONCENTRATE ON
STUDYING!







JUST ONE
LOOK
FROM HER
MAKES ME
HAPPY.

SO
WHY?

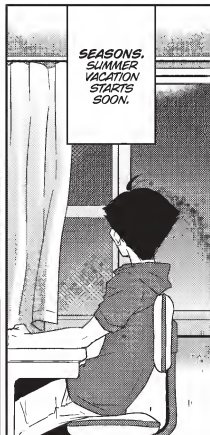
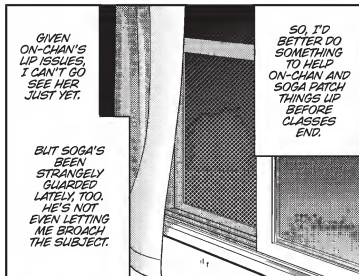
WHY,
WHY,
WHY,
WHY,
WHY,
WHY?!

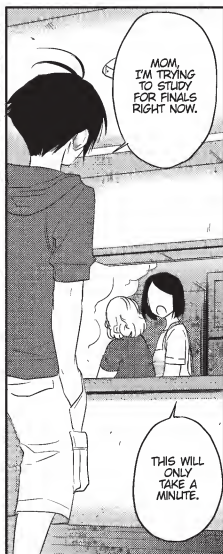
THAT SHE
ACKNOWLED-
GED
THAT I
EXIST WAS
ALL I
NEEDED!

WHY...

DOES
EVERYTHING
SUDDENLY
HURT SO
MUCH?









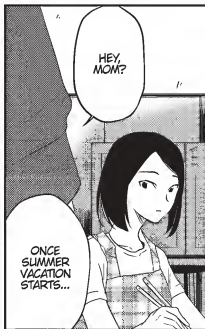
PERFECT!
I KNEW I
HAD A SON
FOR A
REASON.

HERE
YA GO.



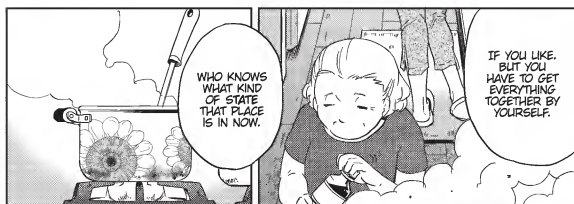
I WAS
THINKING OF
HEADING UP
TO THE
MOUNTAIN
HOUSE.

I WANT
TO SPEND
SOME
TIME
THERE.



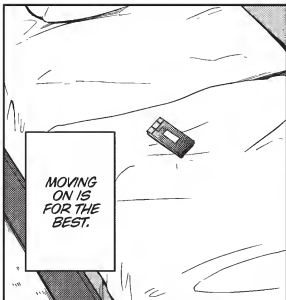
HEY,
MOM?

ONCE
SUMMER
VACATION
STARTS...





YEAH.

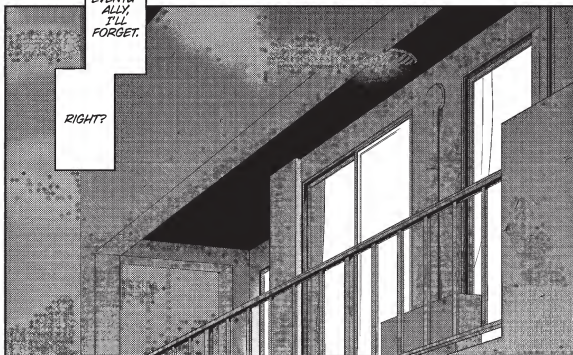


MOVING
ON IS
FOR THE
BEST.



LET
TIME
PASS.

GIVE IT
SOME
SPACE.



EVENTU-
ALLY,
I'LL
FORGET.

RIGHT?



Chapter 10: I Haven't Studied At All

OKAY.
TOMORROW'S
A REGULAR
CLASS.



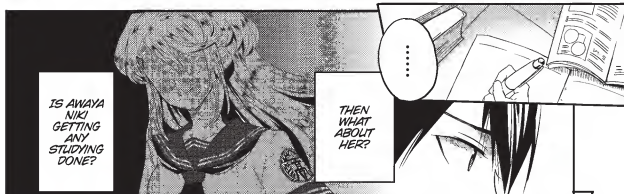
CRAP.

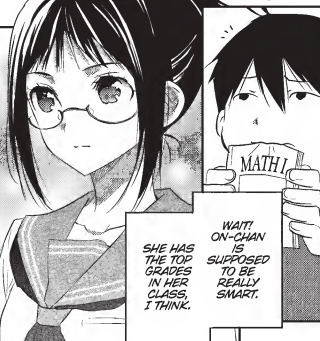
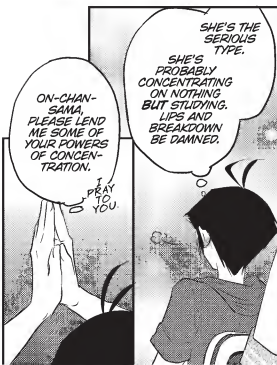
AM I THE
ONLY ONE
WHO'S
SLACKED
OFF THIS
BAD?

I HAVEN'T
BEEN
ABLE TO
STUDY
ONE BIT!

HOTAKA'S
BIORHYTHM









Y!
THD

HOLY
CRAP!
REALLY
?!

NOW
WHAT
DO I
DO?!

?!
I'VE
TURNED
INTO
SOGA-
SEMPAI!!

SOGA-
SEMPAI!!!...

Y!
THD

Y!
THD

Y!
THD

Y!
THD

IS...
IS
THIS...?

NO!

OINK
UGH,
RUNNING
MAKES
ME SO
TIRED.

I HATE
RUNNING.

OINK

WIBBL

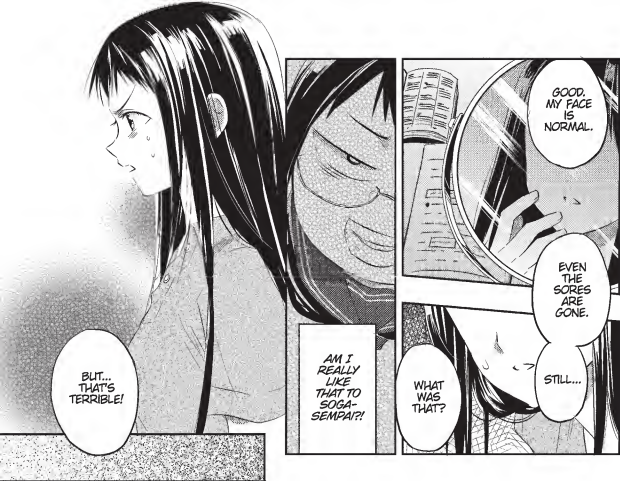
BUT I
HATE YOU
MORE,
SEMPAI.
YOU'RE
ANNOYING,
IRRITATING,
AND A
JERK.

YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA HOW
MUCH
I HATE
YOU!!

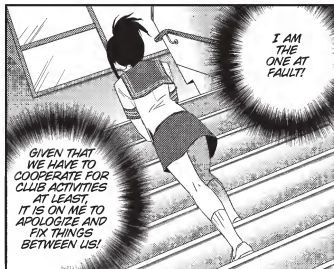
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
SO HOT?
YOU'RE A
DISGUSTING
FLIRT AND A
CANCER
TO WOMEN
EVERYWHERE!

OINK
OINK
SNORT









I AM
THE
ONE AT
FAULT!

GIVEN THAT
WE HAVE TO
COOPERATE FOR
CLUB ACTIVITIES
AT LEAST,
IT IS ON ME TO
APOLOGIZE AND
FIX THINGS
BETWEEN US!



BUT I
RUDELY
TURNED
MY NOSE
UP AT IT,
MAKING
THINGS
AWKWARD
BETWEEN
US.



SOGA-
SEMPAI
TRIED
TO DO
SOME-
THING
NICE FOR
ME.



HERE!
ENJOY IT
WHILE
STUDYING
FOR
FINALS!

IT ISN'T
NEARLY AS
GOOD AS
THE ONE
YOU BAKED,
BUT I
COULDN'T
STOP MYSELF
FROM
MAKING IT!

I ACTUALLY
REALLY
LIKED THE
COOKIE.
THANK YOU!
HAVE THIS
IN RETURN!

SORRY
FOR
WHAT I
DID.



WSH!!

ANY-
WAY!!

I MUST
BE HONEST!
AND
STRAIGHT-
FORWARD!!



THOUGH,
IT HAS AN
UNFORTU-
NATE
"WHAT?
THEHECK
ARE YOU
DOING?"
VIBES

YES!
JUST
LIKE
THAT!!

H
ZING
H
Y





ON-
CHAN...

YOU
HAVE A
CRUSH
ON
SOGA,
RIGHT?

WELL...

I
MEAN...

IT'S TOO
WEIRD,
ISN'T IT?

IT'S
TOO
UNLIKE
ME.

I
WHAT?

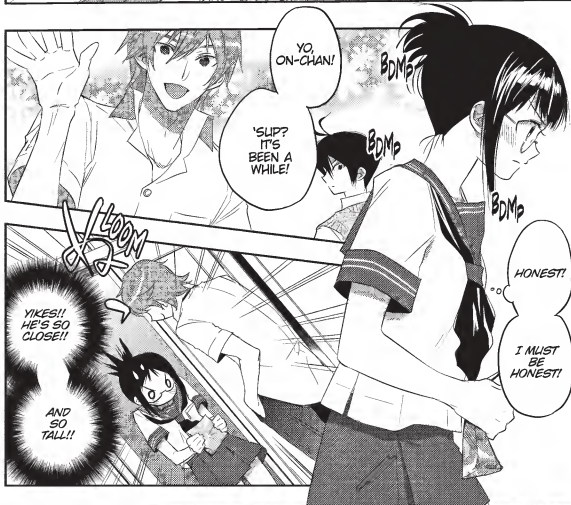
ANYWAY,
LET'S GET
GOING.
I'LL BE
YOUR MORAL
SUPPORT.

THANKS!

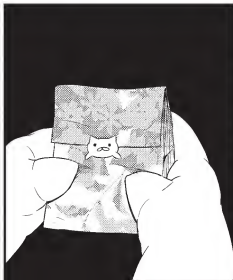
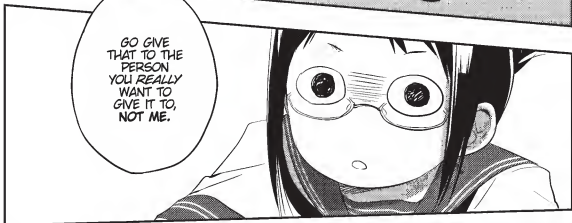
N-
NEVER
MIND.
.....
I SAID
THAT OUT
LOUD?

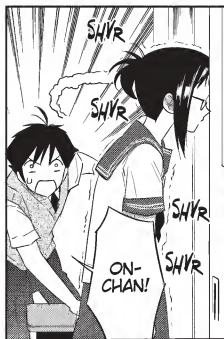
ARE
YOU
SURE...

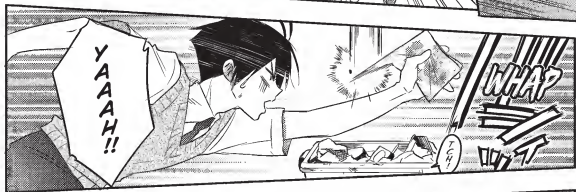
GOING
"BACK TO
THE WAY
IT WAS" IS
REALLY
WHAT YOU
WANT?













WHY?

WHY
DOES
EVERY-
THING
JUST...

NOT GO
THE WAY
IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO?

I CAN'T
JUST
IGNORE
THINGS
ANY-
MORE!!

PLIP









THE
WORLD
GLOWED
ITS ROSY
GLOW.
BUT
NOW...

BACK
THEN,
AT THAT
MOMENT
...



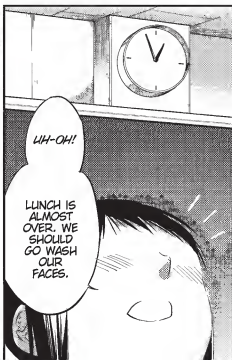
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
WHAT
HAPPENED
BETWEEN
US WAS
A LIE.

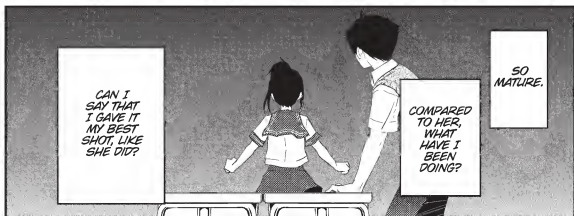
I
JUST
CAN'T
DO IT.

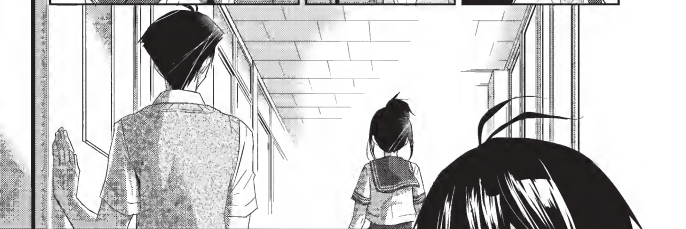
NO.
DESPITE
EVERY-
THING...

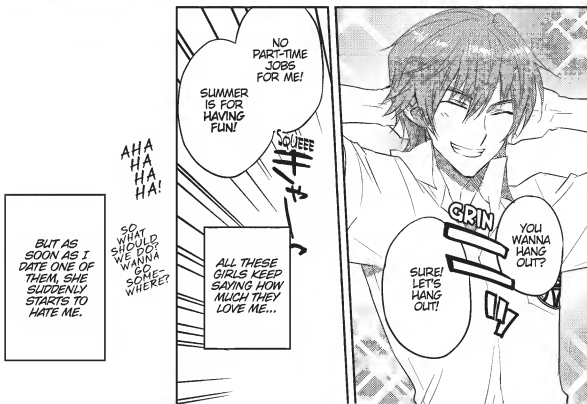


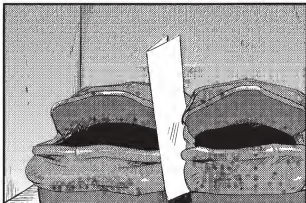
IS THERE
ANYTHING
I CAN
DO?

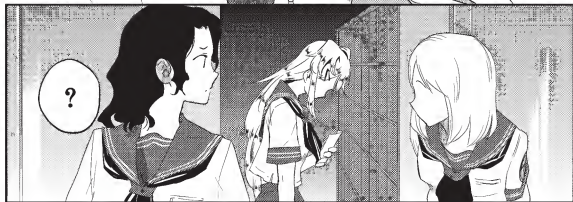
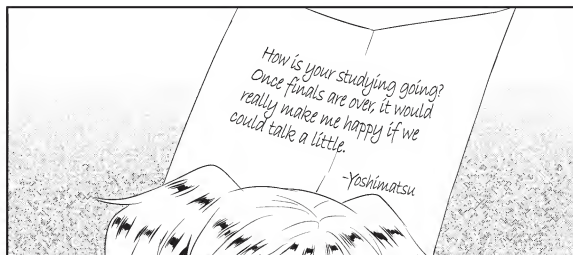












To be continued...



Tigers, dragons, and...love?
Oh my! A romantic comedy where
size really doesn't matter.

TORADORAI

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key 

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ARTIST: UMECHAZUKE

CHARACTER DESIGNER: EIJI KOMATSU

VOLUME 1 COMING OCTOBER 2015!

SO
THERE!

W-WELL,
I'M
PERFECT
ALL THE
TIME
ANYWAY!

I HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY
READING (AND GROANING)
ABOUT THE LOVELY AND
(NOT QUITE) PERFECT
KAGA KOKO!

THANK YOU FOR LETTING
US HAVE ONE OF YOUR
VALUABLE PAGES!

Kokoro

TADA BANRI

A 19-YEAR-OLD WITH
AN IFFY PAST, A
COLLEGE FRESHMAN,
HE'S THE STORY'S
PROTAGONIST.

RINDA NANA

BANRI'S SENPAI,
SHE GOES BY THE
NICKNAME "LINDA."
THE RESPONSIBLE
TYPE, SHE TAKES
CARE OF EVERYONE.

OKA
CHINAMI—

SHORT,
CUTE AND
SPICY, SHE'S
THE TYPE OF
GIRL KOKO
REALLY CAN'T
STAND.

TEE HEE~

HELLO!
MY
NAME
IS
KAGA
KOKO.

AND I
AM THE
PERFECT
COLLEGE
STUDENT.
IF I DO
SAY SO
MYSELF.

CAMPUS

HEE HEE!
CAMPUS
LIFE IS SO
EASY TO
NAVIGATE!

I ALREADY
HAVE
EVERYTHING
THAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN
TODAY ALL
PLANNED
OUT.

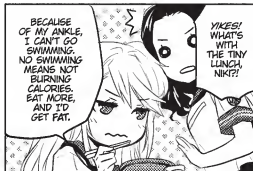
OH, HEY,
KAGA-SAN!
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING OUT HERE?
THERE'S NO
CLASS TODAY.

I'M UM...
GOING TO
STAR-
BUCKS?

URK!

I
T
NESSED
UP





Special Thanks
 Shin-sama, mockoss-sama
 Supervising Editor Takajima-sama
 The Editors of Dengeki Daioh Genesis
 Keiko Seki-sama
 Friends & Family
 ☆
 Yuyuko Takemiya-sensei & our
 wonderful readers

Extra-Large!
 Seal-cat Plushie
 &
 Swimsuit
 On-chan



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ADAPTATION
Bambi Eloriaga-Amago

LETTERING
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Nicky Lim

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Edited by ASCII MEDIA WORKS.

First published in Japan in 2013 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.

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ISBN: 978-1-626921-68-9

Printed in Canada

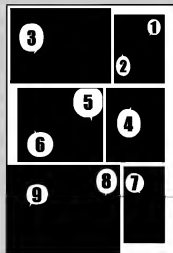
First Printing: August 2015

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



SUMMER SUCKS!

The rumors of Awaya Niki befriending Yoshimatsu Hotaka as a way to get closer to the class hunk, Soga Shunsuke, have reached Hotaka himself. A magical moment under the rain, however, reveals the truth. Everything soon takes a turn for the worse after a public confrontation between dear friends. Can't poor Hotaka ever get a break?



Rated: TEEN

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